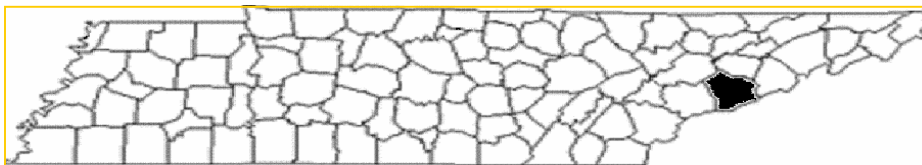


The Status of Women in Sevier County



STATUS OF WOMEN IN SEVIER COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	39.60	25
Women's Annual Earnings	\$20,646	60
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	76.1	20
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	48.6%	4
Female Unemployment Rate	8.4%	85
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	28.9%	29
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	36.50	22
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	24.2%	34
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	9.7%	54
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	75.8%	18
Female High School Dropout Rate	4.2%	20
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	78.7%	94
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	12.0%	13
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	7.6%	24
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	30.7	35

Report Overview: This publication on the Status of Women in Sevier County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

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Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.

- ◇ Women in Sevier County earn \$7,000 less annually than their male counterparts, but the county does rank among the top twenty counties in wage equity.
- ◇ Women account for 47.0% of the labor force in Sevier County. Sevier ranks forth among counties with a 48.6% female labor force participation rate.
- ◇ Sevier ranks poorly among counties with a female unemployment rate of 8.4% which is significantly higher than the overall county unemployment rate of 6.5%.
- ◇ Among all working individuals in Sevier County, 23% work in managerial or professional occupations, but when only female workers are considered, that number increases slightly to 28.9%.

Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ Sevier County ranks among the top twenty counties in percentage of women with a high school diploma (75.8%). The high school graduation percentage for the entire county is 74.6%.
- ◇ With 9.7% of women having a four-year degree or better, Sevier County ranks in the bottom half of counties; it is a lower percentage even than the overall county rate of 13.5% and the overall Tennessee rate of 19.6%.
- ◇ Despite making up over 24 percent of the privately owned businesses in Sevier County, women-owned businesses only account for about 10 percent of the total sales and receipts of private firms in the county.
- ◇ Sevier County tops only one other county in the percentage of women who have any kind of health insurance coverage, with over 21 percent of women uninsured.
- ◇ 12.0% of women in the county earn below poverty level incomes.
- ◇ 8.2% of all families in Sevier County are in poverty but 25.1% of female-householder families with no husband present live in poverty.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

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		Sevier County	Rank of Sevier County	Highest Ranking County
Earnings	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$20,646	60	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	76.1%	20	Davidson: 82.1%
Employment	Female Labor Force Participa- tion Rate	48.6%	4	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	8.4%	85	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	28.9%	29	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	24.2%	34	Moore: 63.3%
Education	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	9.7%	54	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equiva- lency)	75.8%	18	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	4.2%	20	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%
Lifestyles	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage	78.7%	94	Montgomery/ Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	12.0%	13	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	7.6%	24	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	30.7	35	Williamson: 1.2%

ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Sevier County

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at www.tennesseewomen.org

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties